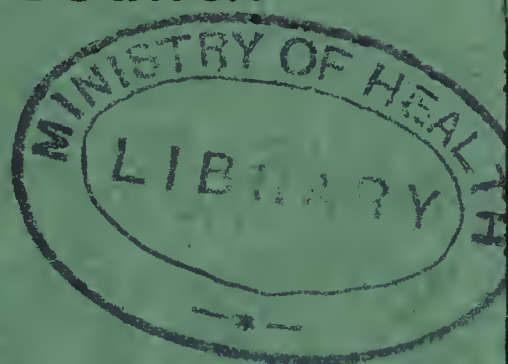


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Middlewich
Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1953

by the

Medical Officer of Health

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1953

To the Chairman and members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1953.

SECTION A
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area		1956 acres
Population — Registrar General's latest estimate of Population...		6813
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)		2059
Rateable Value		£32476
Sum represented by a penny rate		£127/10/0

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General.

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	113	56	57
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—16·87.
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor—17·03.

Still Births—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births—25·42.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	74	45	29
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—10·86.			
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor—11·62.			
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1000 live births			—
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			—
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Cancer, incl. 6 Cancer of Lung (all ages)			23
Deaths from Whooping Cough			—
Deaths from Measles			—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1953 with the years 1942-52 :

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1942 ...	6254	20·94	10·71	53·43	7	4
1943 ...	6097	20·82	10·82	23·62	9	1
1944 ...	6020	21·59	12·62	38·46	12	6
1945 ...	5926	21·26	11·47	55·55	11	2
1946 ...	6206	21·10	9·82	22·90	8	2
1947 ...	6372	27·46	11·45	40·00	11	3
1948 ...	6576	19·60	9·12	23·81	10	1
1949 ...	6587	14·70	9·41	10·30	10	3
1950 ...	6672	17·38	11·99	51·72	9	1
1951 ...	6696	16·27	11·49	27·52	14	1
1952 ...	6798	15·59	10·58	18·86	14	—
1953 ...	6813	16·87	10·86	—	23	1

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953

(Taken from the Registrar General's Tables)

										M	F	T
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...					1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...					—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...					—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...				—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...							—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...						2	—	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...							5	1	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...						—	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...						—	1	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms									9	4	13
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...					—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	...	...							6	7	13
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	...					4	3	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...						—	—	—
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...				8	5	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...					1	—	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...			1	—	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...							1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...						2	1	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...						—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...				—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...				1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...						—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...					—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...							1	3	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...				1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...			1	—	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...			—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...						1	—	1
TOTAL...										45	29	74

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

(1) Staff

W. S. Slater, M.B., CH.B.,M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid-Ches- hire Hospital Manag- ement Committee).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time)	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
F. Costello, A.R.SAN.I. Cert. S.I.B. Cert. Insp. of Meat and other foods	Whole time Sanitary Inspector Victoria Buildings, Middlewich.	(Middlewich Urban District Council only).

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this service has co-operated in the transport of samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

(4) The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Middlewich Urban Area under the following services: School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection; Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domestic Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, etc.

(5) Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, provided hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted a total of 238 patients, only one of which was a resident of Middlewich.

The proposal of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board to convert this hospital for maternity purposes was considered by the Council towards the end of the year.

(6) The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services :

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1953 in the Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows :

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Pre-School Children treated	52
School Children	3
Re-Immunised	63
TOTAL ...	118

Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children treated	11
School Children	—
TOTAL ...	11

Vaccination against Smallpox :

Under 1 year	21
1 to 5 years	1
School Children	—
Adults	4
TOTAL ...	26

The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

The service in the area continued to deal with the Middlewich cases expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After Care.

Nursing requisities and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1953 when necessary in households in the Middlewich District. The kind of cases assisted in general include old age, confinement and tuberculosis. etc., etc.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Town's Public Water Supply was maintained during the year in a satisfactory condition. All houses in the District are now supplied from the mains and there are no standpipes, the houses all having their own water taps.

Twelve bacteriological reports on the Town's Supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, all of which proved to be satisfactory. In addition, one sample was taken by the Health Department for examination by an independent Laboratory and was proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Mr. Wilkinson, Engineer and Surveyor of the M.U.D.C. reports as follows :

A new Surface Water Outfall Sewer from the Chadwick Fields Estate has been laid up to a chamber on the open space in Booth Lane, between Kitfield Avenue and St. Ann's Avenue.

He also reports that "Pipes were laid to relieve the foul sewer at the Southern end of the town and to take storm water from the

Chadwick Fields Estate. No other work beyond maintenance was carried out to the sewers or main sewage works during the year. The small sewage plant at Cledford, which takes the drainage from about 50 houses was cleaned out twice and new filtering media provided."

Proposed New Sewage Works.

Plans, provisional estimates and details relating to site and other matters concerning new sewage works, were still under consideration at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Three pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year, leaving 37 pails and 5 privies still in use.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Collection of refuse is by means of a Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

Informal Notices were complied with for the renewal of 195 dustbins. The refuse tip was maintained free from any nuisance.

Income from the sale of salvage amounted to £527/14/7.

Camping Sites.

A licence was issued for one caravan to occupy a site for a period of one year. There are no other sites licensed within the district.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.

The Council employs a rodent operative under the control of the Sanitary Inspector, but there is insufficient work to warrant his services full time. Accordingly, he is employed part-time on other work, but Rodent Control takes priority.

All Factories and Business Premises in the area make use of this service and have agreed to the Council giving treatment as required and charging them with the cost. Dwelling houses are treated free of cost.

During the year 38 treatments were given at Business Premises, 45 to private dwellings, 5 to agricultural properties and in addition, monthly treatments at the refuse tip and sewage works were considered. All the infestations were of a minor character.

A 10% test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation.

The rodent operative attended a one-day refresher course, which was held at Crewe.

Recreation Fields and Open Spaces.

All existing playgrounds were maintained, and the Fountain Field Sports Ground proved to be very popular.

Factories Inspections.

Under the Factories Act, 1937, the following inspections were carried out :

FACTORIES INSPECTION

	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	35	41	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	—	—	—	—
<i>TOTAL</i> ...	35	41	2	—

Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	No. of Defects Referred		Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
<i>TOTAL</i> ...	2	2	—	—	—

New Industries.

The Handforth Rubber Products have opened the Kraft Dairies premises in Holmes Chapel Road, for rubber processing work.

SECTION D
HOUSING

Provision of New Houses.

The progress made in the Council's Housing Programme during the year 1953 reads as follows :

By Local Authority :	
Permanent Houses	15
By Private Enterprise :	
Permanent Houses	1
	—
TOTAL ...	16
	—

256 permanent brick post war houses have been completed up to the end of 1953 : also 20 temporary bungalows and 25 permanent aluminium bungalows.

No conversions of large houses have been carried out.

No new sites have been selected, as there is still accommodation on the Chadwick Fields Estate.

During the year the following action was taken with regard to houses which were considered to be incapable of repair at reasonable cost :

Nos. 2 and 4 Brooks Lane	Tenants rehoused and houses demolished
Nos. 14, 16, 18 and 20 Nantwich Road ; and Nos. 2, 4, 6, and 8 Newton Bank	By agreement with the owners these houses were purchased by the Council. The tenants were rehoused at the end of the year. A scheme was in progress for the demolition and clearance of the site

Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Hodkinson's Court

These houses were considered incapable at a reasonable expense of being made fit for human habitation. The Council accepted an offer from the owners to take over the 3 houses, with a view to subsequent demolition. The tenants of Nos. 1 and 3 were rehoused. No. 2 is to be allowed to remain occupied temporarily, since the tenant is an aged male living alone, who had no wish to accept a Council house.

Other Notices complied with :

Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Repairs to roofs and spouting	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective firegrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Repairs to windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective plasterwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls re-painted	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Verminous houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

4 Statutory Notices and 139 Informal Notices were issued and complied with during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

During the year, 14 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results :

Grade			Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
			Sat'factory	Unsat'factory	Sat'factory	Unsat'factory
Ungraded	...	...	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised	...	...	8	—	7	1
T.T. Pasteurised	...	...	3	—	2	1
T.T.	...	...	2	—	—	—

Two of the satisfactory samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken from the local schools' supplies.

Three samples of milk (1 ungraded and 2 Tuberculin Tested) were also submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, all with negative results.

Two dealers are licensed to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milks. Another dealer was issued with Supplementary Licences to retail Pasteurised and T.T. Milk. There is only one Dealer in the area retailing milk which is ungraded.

(b) Meat.

Two slaughterhouses were licensed for “Casualties” and one other for the slaughter of pigs. All were maintained in a cleanly condition.

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Number killed and inspected	201	79	38	7
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	9	7	1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	4	—	1
Percentage of the number affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	11.44	13.92	2.63	57.14
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	11	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38	2	—	—
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis	24.37	2.53	—	—

(c) Other Foods and Ice Cream.

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of the following :

5 lb. Cheese	28 lb. Frozen Eggs.
98 lb. Sausages	19 tins of Tomatoes
4 tins of Cream	17 tins of Milk
1 tin of Salmon	8 tins of Peas
35 tins of Fruit	19 tins of Beetroot
2 tins of Beans	132 lb. of tinned Ham, Tongue, etc.

In addition, the following based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1953 :

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Boracic Acid Powder	1	—
Castor Oil	1	—
Fish Paste	3	—
Glauber's Salts	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Milk	13	1*
Peppermints	1	—
Sage—dried	1	—
Sweets	1	—
Tongue Paste	1	—
	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	1
	—	—

* Particulars of Non-standard sample :

Article	Analysis	Remarks
Milk...	“Genuine” but abnormally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 1.1%.	Retail sale of a pint bottle. No action taken as sample was genuine.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district (neither hot nor cold mix) and the only ice cream sold is wrapped or in tubs or cartons, etc.

Seven samples of Ice Cream in the Middlewich Urban District were taken during the year, six of which were provisional Grade 1 and one Grade 2.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

(d) Clean Food Campaigns.

The undermentioned food premises are in existence in the Middlewich area :

Bakehouses	7
Butchers' Shops	7
Licensed Slaughterhouses	3
Fish and Chip Shops	6
Cafes	3

Registered under Section 14 F. and D. Act, 1938.

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream		16
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.		14
Dairies registered under M. & D. Regulations, 1949		2

All premises where food is handled or prepared have been regularly inspected throughout the year and as a result improvements were effected at one bakehouse and four other food premises were cleansed and limewashed. Generally, a satisfactory state of cleanliness exists at the various food premises.

Bye-Laws under Section 15—Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the clean handling of food—appear to have been fully observed and it is pleasing to note that all shops continue to display the notice cards issued two years ago requesting owners of dogs not to take them into premises where food is sold.

(e) Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned meat at slaughterhouses is stained green and allowed to be sold for animal feeding stuffs.

Condemned tinned foods, etc., from shops are deposited on the refuse tip.

Whilst the Sandbach Sanitary Inspector was on holiday, the Middlewich Council's Sanitary Inspector took over the inspection of meat at the M.O.H. Slaughterhouse at Sandbach for 2 weeks.

SECTION F

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

- (1) Only one case of measles was notified during the year.
- (2) **Tuberculosis.**

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis :

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1953

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non Respiratory M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—

During 1953, 3 cases were admitted to and 4 discharged from Sanatoria.

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
50	60	58	48	48	43	46	44	45	27	29	28

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination has been carried out on 1 new-born baby at the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, during the year.

Mass Radiography.

A further report on the mass radiography survey, which was carried out in Middlewich during the period 6/11/52 to 24/11/52 has now been received.

The results of the survey can be summarised as follows :

- (1) Of the 1861 persons examined, 1779 (95·5%) were classified as normal ; 56 (3 %) were classified as showing some non-tuberculous abnormality, e.g., bronchitis, new growth, heart disease, etc.; 23 (12·3 per 1000) were classified as tuberculous, but all of them were regarded as **inactive** ; and the remaining three failed to attend for large films, so were not included in the classifications.

(2) The report on the survey finishes with the following comments:

(a) i. The very satisfactory industrial response rate (73·3%) ; this may have been due, to some extent, to the fact that most of the examinees were X-rayed on their own firm's premises. It was found necessary to visit most of the works, even though they were only medium sized units, due to the distance between factories.

ii. The response from the public was not so satisfactory, but the working population represents a fairly high proportion of the total population.

(b) The survey was entirely unproductive of **active** tuberculosis and was disappointing in that respect as it cannot be thought that there are no cases in the area.

Six cases of pneumokoniosis were found, four being newly discovered while two were already known.

In conclusion, the Unit would like to place on record its thanks to the Middlewich Urban District Council the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. S. Slater, Mr. A. Goulden, Clerk of the Council and his staff, for their close co-operation during the survey, and to Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Middlewich, for allowing the Unit to use the Scouts' Hall for the examination of members of the public, schoolchildren, etc.

(3) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

Two houses were disinfected during the year and the bedding destroyed. Three houses were treated for infestation by bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1954.

N.B.—The removal of the combined Divisional and M.O.H. Office from Whitehall to Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, took place on September 25th, 1953.

